

58-1943

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, PA.

FRANZ BOAS

Last week, Franz Boas, professor emeritus of Anthropology at Columbia university, laid down his life's work at the age of 84, and passed on to his reward.

He did more than any one man to fight the vicious fallacy of race, debunk the "blonde superman" and expose what he called "this Nordic nonsense."

He fathered a whole school of anthropology which repudiated "race" as a vicious invention of snobs, exploiters and imperialists, and its graduates are honored and respected today as outstanding scholars.

"What we know of race," he said, "is largely a matter of environment. There is no such thing as pure race."

On another occasion he declared, "There is no reason to believe that one race is by nature so much more intelligent, endowed with greater will-power, or emotionally more stable than others that the difference would materially influence its culture. Nor is there any good reason to believe that the differences between races are so great that the descendants of mixed marriages would be inferior to their parents."

He also said, "None of the civilizations was the product of the genius of a single person. Ideas and intentions were carried from one to the other; and, although inter-communication was slow, each people which participated in the ancient development contributed its share to the general progress..... As all have worked together in the development of the ancient civilizations, we must bow to the genius of all, whatever group of mankind they may represent."

When Dr. Boas came on the educational stage, the most grotesque fictions were circulating about "race," and eminent scholars were prostituting themselves to bolster and justify the enslavement and exploitation of colored nations on the ground that they were "inferior" and "not ready for

PHYSICAL
government."

He did much to clear away this rubbish and put the old school on the defensive. Some of his best known works are "The Mind of Primitive Man," "Primitive Art" and "Anthropology and Modern Life."

A German-born American of Jewish parentage, he was a brilliant exponent and follower of the truth, and he performed a great service by depriving the myth of race superiority of any scientific basis.

While his passing is greatly to be mourned, we can be thankful that his students -- Robert Lowie, Clark Wissler, Melville Herskovits, Ruth Benedict, Margaret Mead, Alexander Goldenweiser, Paul Radin and Zora Hurston -- are carrying on his work.

PM

New York, N. Y.

By Albert Deutsch:

Blood Myth

MAY 7 1943

Scientist Explodes

Some Common Errors

This is not only a war of nations against nations. It is, in a deeper sense than most people realize, a war of ideas of the Truth against the Myth.

Fascism, the greatest Myth of the twentieth century, is the sum of many myths.

Chief among these is the Myth of Race and the Myth of Blood. Both myths were in the world before Fascism. But it remained for Fascism to make them the basis for a war of world conquest.

Science will back up the Biblical precept (Act xvii, 26) that God hath made of one blood all nations of men to dwell on the face of the earth.

But the ancient myth of blood still clouds men's minds against the truth not only in Fascist lands, but even in our own. It survives, in its simpler forms, in such phrases as "blue blood," "blood royal," "full-blood," or "half-blood," Negro or Indian, "English blood," "German blood," "Jewish blood," and "Negro blood"—implying that the race, groups, or even social status of people is determined by differences in blood.

Official Nazi Doctrine

Ten years ago, at the Nazi party Con-

gress at Nuremberg, the official Nazi blood myth was laid down by Herr Alfred Rosenberg, leading "philosopher" of Fascism:

"A nation is constituted by a predominance of a definite character formed by its blood. . . . The decisive element in a nation is its blood. . . . I believe that this recognition of the profound significance of blood is now mysteriously encircling our planet irresistibly gripping one nation after another."

The blood-myth is mainly on the false assumption that heredity is determined chiefly by the blood. Dr. M. F. Ashley Montagu, associate professor of anatomy at the Hahnemann Medical College in Philadelphia and a leading anthropologist, explodes this myth in the current issue of *Psychiatry*.

"Blood is in no way connected with the transmission of hereditary characters," says Prof. Montagu. "The transmitters of hereditary characters are the genes which lie in the chromosomes of the germ cells represented by the spermatozoa of the father and the ova of the mother, and nothing else."

Blood's MAY 7 1943

Blood has nothing whatever to do with any other manner whatever. The blood of all human beings is in every respect the same. To this there is only one exception, and that is in the agglutinating properties of the blood, which yields the four blood groups. But these four blood groups are present in all varieties of men.

Montagu sharply criticizes the present Red Cross policy of segregating the blood of Negro donors in its blood banks, as both

"As long as you can't prove she has used her color to embarrass her assignment I suggest that she be left alone; that is unless you want to catch lots of hell. From a color point we are going and coming" —

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Racial Purity

A new line of investigation into the question of racial purity is being revealed by the study of blood types. Henceforth, racial purity may not be left to one's family table, but the color of one's hair or eyes, or other superficial characteristics. A blood test will be made to settle the matter.

Upset, headquarters called in a newsman for advice, admitting that the pretty WAAC was around three days before it was known that she was a Negro. Shebe made to settle the matter.

In England, analyses of blood donated to the Blood Transfusion Service indicate some rather strange results. As is commonly known, blood is divided into four groups,

But WAAC Finds

Colors Two-faced

HOUSTON, Tex. — As long as

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based on the fact that blood of one group contains "antigens" which cause damage to the red corpuscles of the blood of other groups. Enough blood has now been taken and analyzed throughout England to justify some general conclusions on blood types and racial origins.

For one thing, there is, generally speaking, a different type of blood in Scotland from that in England. The type of blood in England resembles that which is common to the neighboring continental countries, while that in Scotland resembles more closely the blood of Icelanders than it does even the blood of those now dwelling in Scandinavia.

The conclusion, as reported in the British *Monthly Science News*, is that Scotland was originally inhabited by Scandinavian peoples who also colonized Iceland, but that present Scandinavian populations have been generously intermixed with Central European populations.

For long it has been customary to look upon the Scandinavian populations as racially the purest in Europe. This new approach to the matter indicates the contrary, and that the Scots may be racially the purest. At any rate, the Swedes and the Norwegians and the Danes are no longer to be viewed as the "pure" Nordic type, if any such thing exists.

As a matter of fact, there are no "pure" races in the world, whether one classifies the races by appearance or by fundamental blood structure. That is a matter of political as well as scientific interest.

Skin Of Negroes Shield Against Menace Of Polio

Defender Chicago, Ill.
LOS ANGELES, Cal.—"The virus that produces infantile paralysis enters through the skin and it is possible that the scarcity of the disease among Negroes may indicate that their skin pigment prevents access of the virus."

This was the opinion of Sister Elizabeth Kenny, famed Australian nurse now visiting America in the interest of infantile paralysis victims. Making her rounds of local institutions, Sister Kenny stopped at a bed-ridden 4-year-old Mary Ann Hawthorne and remarked that the little colored girl was the fourth of her race she had ever seen suffering from the dread disease.

ROGERS SAYS:

Pittsburgh Courier
BY J. A. ROGERS

DOROTHY THOMPSON, whose plain-speaking on "race," places her in a class with Pearl Buck and Wendell Willkie, was recently quoted as saying, "One of the bases for interracial hate is sexual fear." This is a fact that the bolder Negro writers have been pointing out for a long time. Sexual fear is not only "one of the bases," but it is the base. Miss Thompson adds, "The white man fears the vigor of the black."

I am convinced that if some plan could be devised whereby the white man—and I am thinking principally of the Southerner—could be assured of free access to the Negro woman, and at the same time be made to feel that no white women would ever go with black men—the problem would be solved within a generation.



Mr. Rogers

ALL HUMANITY IS MIXED

To get to the origin and the root of this matter, I have proved, I think, conclusively, elsewhere that the mixing of so-called "races" is one of the great established truths of Nature. White and black have been mixing ever since there was a so-called white race, and that probably goes back 150,000 years. That all humanity is mixed is a fact that only dishonest thinking—think of the ivory-skulled individuals—people who are dead from the jawbone upwards—will deny. No white Southerner, however rabid, can be absolutely sure, that he hasn't a Negro strain somewhere, though, I, for one, will gladly concede that he is "pure" white, because another undeniable fact is that the purest "races" today are the "races" farthest down, such as the Pigmies, the Negritos, the Semangs, Eskimos, etc.

THE "white race," instead of being averse to mixing with Negroes, has, in my firm belief, a distinct predilection towards doing so. I have abundant proof of that from history and from sight. I grew up in a part of the world where I saw white and colored mixing and marrying and thought nothing of it. During the years I lived in Europe, after the tremendous race problem in the United States, I was not a little amazed to see that the white man in his native land had, on the whole, no prejudice for Negroes, and that when he objected to them it was solely to please some white American or white South African, or the like.

EUROPEANS FREE OF PREJUDICES

A mixed couple in a public place attracted no attention, save in England. I saw in Holland, France, Italy and Spain Negroes dancing on the stage with white women

These white girls leaned all over his black body, while the European men and women applauded and the Americans growled. I saw the same with Josephine Baker and her white dancing partners. The juxtaposition of white flesh and black flesh was an artistic novelty for the white man of Europe.

THE same was true of the movies. I saw—as I reported in my articles in the Negro press at the time—Benglia in more than one film playing a Clark Gable role with white heroines. In short, if there was any prejudice it was distinctly in favor of the black. What hatred the white European had was not for black people, but for other whites, like himself. The German and the French had an undying hate for one another, while the white European certainly preferred the laughing American black to the stuck-up, purse-proud American white.

FOUND NO COLOR BAR IN GERMANY

Even in Germany which has a bad name for Negroes now, I found not the slightest evidence of color prejudice and the same eagerness to mate with blacks. And even after the coming of Hitler this did not change very much. I was exchanging notes a few days ago with an African lady, now married to a colored American, whose first husband, now dead, was a consul-general in Germany. As his wife she met Hitler, Goering, Goebbels, and most of the big Nazis and she said she found no color prejudice in her contacts with them. She said that once she spent two hours in the same theatre box with Mrs. Goering and had a choice seat among the diplomatic corps at the Olympics. She showed me her picture taken with all the ladies of the diplomatic corps, she being the only Negro woman among them. Like myself she found color prejudice nowhere in Germany. I would bet dollars to doughnuts that you'd find more color prejudice in Washington, D. C., right now than in Berlin. African Negroes taught their native languages in German universities under Hitler.

MY GREAT objection to Hitler is not what he has done to black people. Apart from calling them a few names, largely to hurt the French, and please the Americans, he has done them nothing to speak of yet. I oppose him rather for

Race Mixing Is One of the Great Truths of Nature and No Laws Can Stop It

because common sense dictates that an attack on human rights anywhere on this globe is an attack on humanity everywhere. Thus I class those white Americans, and Englishmen, and South Africans who rob Negroes of their rights, with Hitler. Protest as they will they cannot deny that in so doing they share Hitler's spirit.

COLONISTS HAD NO COLOR PREJUDICE

The white colonists to the New World in the 16th century, having no color prejudice in Europe, brought none with them. Racial distinctions arose, not from sexual causes, but from economic ones. In what is now the United States there was this difference, however. The white men brought white women with them and thus arose laws against race mixing, laws which collapsed, however, with the abolition of the slave trade and the increased need for Negro labor.

THE taboo, however, remained where the white woman and the black man were concerned because the system of exploitation based on whiteness of skin could be maintained only through the white woman continuing to breed white. On the other hand, the union of the white man and the black woman, by breeding more slaves of color, permitted the white exploiter to eat his cake and have it, too.

LAWS CANNOT STOP RACE MIXING

In short, nothing can be done about it. Nature has planted the germ of race mixing deep in the human race. Make all the laws you wish, but as Huxley said: "What has been decreed among prehistoric protozoa cannot be annulled by Act of Parliament." The whole history of race mixing in the United States is one grand proof of that.

SECOND THOUGHTS

Defender

Chicago, Ill.

By S. I. HAYAKAWA

"Scientific Monthly"

HOW SERIOUSLY the most thoughtful scientists in the country are pondering the problems of "race" is attested by the fact that *Scientific Monthly*, published by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, has devoted articles to the subject in three successive issues this year—two of them leading articles.

Dr. Wilton Marion Krogman, anatomist and physical anthropologist of the University of Chicago, contributes an article to the August issue entitled "What We Do Not Know About Race." As Dr. Krogman shows, the racial bigots and "hatelers" (to use PM's new word) haven't a scientific leg to stand on.



S. I. Hayakawa

First of all, even scientists cannot agree on the classification of "races," many preferring to classify all men as being simply members of "the human race." Even if human beings are divided into white, yellow, and Negro, these divisions would not represent biological "races" but sub-species.

Secondly, there is no such thing as a "pure race," Adolf Hitler to the contrary notwithstanding. Thirdly, we don't know how the various sub-species of men arose, nor do we know how traits indicative of stock or "race" are transmitted.

Furthermore, studies have been made in serious search of "race differences," but in all cases no differences have been found that cannot be accounted for by differences in living conditions. Finally, says Dr. Krogman, not as a sentimental equalitarian, but simply as a scientist reporting the facts as he sees them, there is no such thing as racial "inferiority" or "superiority."

Dean Redfield

IF, AS DR. KROGMAN says, there is so little positive knowledge on the subject of "race," what is there that is known for sure?

The answer is to be found in the September issue of "Scientific Monthly" which contains an article by Dean Robert Redfield, University of Chicago anthropologist, entitled "What We Do Know About Race."

Dr. Redfield agrees with Dr. Krogman that "race" as a biological phenomenon is a field that offers a very few positive conclusions. But as a social phenomenon "race" is a very real thing. In other words, wherever people believe in "race,"

there you have "race" problems.

As I understand Dr. Redfield, the process of arriving at a belief in "race" goes something like this: first you have rivalry or conflict as the result of religious, language, or cultural differences, economic competition, or class snobbery. Secondly, you rationalize those rivalries or conflicts by attributing those differences to racial origin.

Race Never The Real Issue

IN OTHER WORDS, a "racial prejudice" is something people think up afterwards in order to solidify a prejudice that already existed for other than "racial" reasons. Prejudice against Jews, for example, existed as religious and economic prejudice long before it became, under Hitler, a "racial" prejudice. Prejudice against Negroes in the United States originates as prejudice against and contempt for people of lower social standing (slaves). Making a "racial" issue out of the class issue perpetuates the class stratification. In short, "race" is the first-class red herring of all time.

In my next week's column I shall deal with the third article in this series in the "Scientific Monthly" series: "Racial Status and Personality Development," by Professor Allison Davis.